

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A cryptographic method during which an integer division of ~~the a type~~  $q = a \text{ div } b$  and/or a modular reduction of ~~the a type~~  $r = a \bmod b$  is performed, where  $q$  is a quotient,  $a$  is a number containing  $m$  bits,  $b$  is a number containing  $n$  bits, with  $n$  less than or equal to  $m$  and  $b_{n-1}$  is ~~non-zero~~ non-zero,  $b_{n-1}$  being the most significant bit of the number  $b$ , comprising the steps of masking the number  $a$  by a random number  $p$  before performing the integer division and/or the modular reduction, and generating encrypted or decrypted data in accordance with ~~the results a result~~ of the division and/or modular reduction.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in order to mask the number  $a$ ,  $b$  times the random number  $p$  ( $a <- a + b^*p$ ) is added to the number  $a$ .
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein, after having performed an integer division, the contribution made by the random number  $p$  is taken away from the result of the integer division.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein, in order to take away the contribution made by the random number  $p$ , said random number  $p$  is subtracted from the result of the integer division.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the random number  $p$  is modified at each implementation of the method.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the random number  $p$  is modified after a predetermined number of implementations of the method.
7. (Previously Presented) An electronic component comprising means for implementing a method according to claim 1, said means comprising a plurality of registers for storing the numbers  $a$  and  $b$ .
8. (Previously Presented) A chip card comprising a component according to claim 7.